GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1846
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Special Package to less frequented Tourist Places
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to give special package for exploring the unmapped and lesser frequented tourist places to attract more domestic and foreign tourists in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard along with the sites identified in various States/UTs of the country, State/UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
(c) whether the Government considers to give focus on special financial assistance to the areas to be developed as the next tourist hotspots in the country; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations under the Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme financial assistance is given to create tourist circuits around specific themes which could be confined to a State or could be a regional circuit covering more than a State/UT to attract tourist having special interest for visiting such places. The PRASAD Scheme aims to address the need for holistic development of the selected pilgrimage destinations by way of providing Central Financial Assistance to the States/Union Territories.

(b): The thirteen theme based circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme are the North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit. In so far as PRASAD is concerned, twenty three religious cities/sites have been identified for development which inter-alia include Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Dwarka (Gujarat), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Belur (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Hazratbal (Jammu & Kashmir), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Puri (Odisha), Srisailam (Andhra Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

A total of 46 projects including those for Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned for a total amount of Rs.3944.88 Crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. A total of 14 projects have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.332.84 Crore under the PRASAD Scheme.

(c) and (d): Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic tourism destination including the various tourism sites and products of every State/Union Territory of the country in the domestic and international markets. The receipt of proposals from the State Governments/UT Administrations for Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects is a continuous process. The proposals received are examined with reference to the prescribed guidelines and financial assistance is extended for such projects subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions, operational viability and availability of funds.

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